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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/687,357	Applicant(s) SINGER ET AL.
	Examiner JOSHUA JOO	Art Unit 2454

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/08

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

Detailed Action

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's communication filed on 03/03/2009.

Claims 1-21 are pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 03/03/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that:

3. (1) Lipscomb does not teach that said first hub network and said second hub network overlap.

Two hub networks overlap when the hub networks include the same device or devices.

4. In response, Lipscomb teaches that a first media device connects to portal 300 to access content on a second media device or the portal. The first media device may also access content on a third media device (col. 3, lines 9-11, 26-29; col. 11, lines 22-27). The first media device and the second media device/portal comprise a first network, and the first media device and the third media device comprise a second network. The networks overlap as the first media device is a part of both of networks. It is also respectfully noted that the claims do not specify that overlapping is caused when the hub networks include the same device or devices

5. (2) Lipscomb does not teach that a client stores particular content to a particular network.

6. In response, Lipscomb teaches storing content associated with a license. The license permits whether content can be played on another media device (col. 11, lines 15-22). The content cannot be copied or transferred to all devices. There is a restriction on which devices can store and play content and thus a media device stores particular content to a particular network.

7. (3) Lipscomb fails to teach a compliant device.

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8. In response, Applicant refers to Applicant's specification that describes a compliant device as a device that operates according to the processes defined for a device that is a member of a hub network and cannot make a usable copy of a discrete instance. It is noted that the description of a compliant device is not recited in the claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. Applicant has stated in the Remarks filed 03/03/2009 that the subject matter of claims 1, 15, and 16 are intended as to recite hardware components. Therefore, the inventions of claim 1, 15, and 16 will be considered as hardware inventions. Rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is being withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

10. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted 10/03/2008 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the IDS is being considered by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

11. Claims 2, 4-5, and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- i) Regarding claims 2, 4, and 21, "said member hub network" should be changed to "a hub network of said member" or to a similar type of correction. While the claims recite "a member of a hub network", the claims do not have clear antecedent basis for "said member hub network".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

12. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

i) Regarding claims 10-12, “said member hub network” has insufficient antecedent basis. The claims and prior claims 1 and 9 do not refer a member hub network or a member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

14. Claims 1-11, 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lipscomb et al. US Patent #7,346,687 (Lipscomb hereinafter).

15. As per claim 1, Lipscomb teaches the invention as claimed including a network, comprising:
a first hub network including a first server and a first client, and said first server is connected to
said first client (col. 2, lines 49-51; col. 6, lines 28-29. Media player functions as client and/or server.
col. 3, lines 5-11, 20-29; col. 4, lines 5-10; col. 6, lines 5-10. Multiple media players. A client may be a
media player that accesses media from other media players or the portal. A first server may be a media
player functioning as a server or the portal.);

a second hub network including a second server and said first client, and said second server is
connected to said first client, such that said first hub network and said second hub network overlap (col. 3,
lines 5-12, 26-29; col. 4, lines 5-10. A media player may function as a server to send media. Networks

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overlap since players can access content other players or the portal. Also, players may be within wireless range.);

wherein said first client stores first content bound to said first hub network and stores second content bound to said second hub network (col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able store media.), and

wherein content bound to a hub network is represented by locked content data and corresponding licenses stored on a server connected to the hub network, and the bound content can only be played or presented through a compatible compliant device that is bound to the hub network (col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License permitting, a media player accesses media from another media player or the portal.).

16. As per claim 15, Lipscomb teaches the invention as claimed including a network, comprising:
a first hub network including a first server and a first client, and said first server is connected to said first client (col. 2, lines 49-51; col. 6, lines 28-29. Media player functions as client and/or server. col. 3, lines 5-11, 20-29; col. 4, lines 5-10; col. 6, lines 5-10. Media player or TV may act as a client to receive media from a media player or the portal. A first server may be a media player functioning as a server or the portal.);

a second hub network including a second server and said first client, and said second server is connected to said first client, such that said first hub network and said second hub network overlap (col. 3, lines 5-12, 26-29; col. 4, lines 5-10. Multiple media players. A media player may function as a server to send media.);

wherein said first server stores first content in a first source version of locked content data (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 510. Portal may store media. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.).

said first server stores a first root license bound to said first hub network for said first source version (col. 3, lines 36-39. Portal may perform rights management. col. 4, lines 5-8. Licensed digital media.),

said second server stores second content in a second source version of locked content data (col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able store media. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.),

said second server stores a second root license bound to said second hub network for said second source version (col. 9, lines 18-21. Right restrictions for media in media player. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.),

said first client receives said first content streamed from said first source version by said first server (col. 3, lines 20-27. Media player receives stream from portal.), and

said first client receives said second content streamed from said second source version by said second server (col. 5, lines 5-10; col. 6, lines 34-38; col. 8, lines 5-7. Video is directed TV. Media player may play content from any connected server or access data from other media partners.), and

wherein a source version of locked content data which is bound to a hub network by a root license can only be played or presented through a compatible compliant device that is a member of the hub network (col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License permitting, a media player accesses media from another media player or the portal.).

17. As per claim 16, Lipscomb teaches the invention as claimed including a network, comprising:
first hub network including a first server (col. 6, lines 28-29. Media player may function as a server. col. 3, lines 5-11, 20-29; col. 4, lines 5-10; col. 6, lines 5-10. A first server may be a media player functioning as a server or the portal.);

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a second hub network including a second server and said first server, and said second server is connected to said first server, such that said first hub network and said second hub network overlap (col. 3, lines 5-12, 26-29; col. 4, lines 5-10. Multiple media players. A media player may function as a server to send media to the portal or other media players.);

wherein said first server stores a first license and a first version of locked content data, and said first version stores first content, said first server stores a second license and a second version of locked content data, and said second version stores second content (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 5-10. Portal may store media assets. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media assets. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.),

said first license is bound to said first hub network, said second license is bound to said second hub network (col. 9, lines 19-22. Right restrictions to media. col. 10, lines 39-44. Media subjected to licensing rights.), and

wherein a version of locked content data which is bound to a hub network by a license can only be played or presented through a compatible compliant device that is a member of the hub network (col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License permitting, a media player accesses media from another media player or the portal.).

18. As per claim 18, Lipscomb teaches the invention as claimed including a hub network, comprising:

a server storing a root license and a source version of locked content data (col. 6, lines 28-29. Media player may function as a server. col. 3, lines 5-11, 20-29. A first server may be a media player functioning as a server or the portal. col. 9, lines 18-21. Right restrictions for media in media player. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.);

a client connected to said server, and storing a first license, a first sub-copy version of locked content data, a second license, and a second sub-copy version of locked content data (col. 4, lines 5-10, 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able receive and store media from another media player or the portal. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.);

wherein said source version of locked content data stores first content (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 5-10. Portal may store media assets. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media assets.),

said root license is bound to said hub network, said first sub-copy version stores said first content, said first license is bound to said hub network, said second sub-copy version stores second content, and said second license is bound to another hub network (col. 9, lines 19-22. Right restrictions to media. col. 10, lines 39-44. Media subjected to licensing rights. col. 4, lines 5-10, 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able receive and store media from another media player or the portal.),

wherein a source version of locked content data which is bound to a hub network by a root license can only be played or presented through a compliant device that is a member of the hub network (col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License permitting, a media player accesses media from another media player or the portal.).

19. As per claim 2, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first server, said first client, and said second server are each compliant devices (col. 3, lines 5-10; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensed playback device. Permit access to multiple media players.), and a compliant device that is a member of a hub network will not play or present bound content that is not bound to said member hub network (col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player.).

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20. As per claim 3, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first client stores said first content in a first sub-copy version having a first license bound to said first hub network and stores said second content in a second sub-copy version having a second license bound to said second hub network, and wherein a sub-copy version is a copy of the locked content representing the bound content bound to a hub network (col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65; col. 10, lines 39-44). Media player is able download and store media. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 10, lines 29-32. Media is associated with licensing rights.).

21. As per claim 4, Lipscomb teaches the invention of claim 3, wherein said first client is a compliant device (col. 3, lines 5-10; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensed playback device. Permit access to multiple media players.), and a compliant device that is a member of a hub network will not present bound content that is not bound to that hub network (col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License restricts a media player to move or copy asset media from another media player or the portal.).

22. As per claim 5, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 3, wherein each sub-copy version has a corresponding license that is bound to only one hub network (col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 10, lines 29-32. Media is associated with licensing rights. col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players.).

23. As per claim 6, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first server stores said first content bound to said first hub network, and said second server stores said second content bound to said second hub network (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 510. Portal may store media. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be

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protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 10, lines 43-45. Media associated with licensing rights. col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players.).

24. As per claim 7, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 6, wherein said first server stores said first content in a first source version of locked content data, and said second server stores said second content in a second source version of locked content data (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 510. Portal may store media. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 10, lines 43-45. Media associated with licensing rights. col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players.).

25. As per claim 8, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 7, wherein said first source version has a corresponding first root license bound to said first hub network, and said second source version has a corresponding second root license bound to said second hub network (col. 3, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 510. Portal may store media. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption. col. 10, lines 43-45. Media associated with licensing rights. col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players.).

26. As per claim 9, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first hub network defines a first local environment based on said first server, and said second hub network defines a second local environment based on said second server (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The portal or a media player

communicates content and thus have local environments.).

27. As per claim 10, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 9, wherein a local environment for a hub network is a limited area defined relative to the server in said member hub network (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The environment is limited to a network of permitted devices or within network range.).

28. As per claim 11, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 9, wherein a local environment for a hub network is a limited logical area defined relative to the position of the server in said member hub network (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The environment is limited to a network of permitted devices or within network range.).

29. As per claim 13, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first hub network has a first local environment, said second hub network has a second local environment, and said first local environment and said second local environment overlap such that said first sever, said first client, and said second server are each in both the first local environment and the second local environment (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The portal or a media player communicates content and thus have local environments. Furthermore, media player may access asset on the portal or other media players, thus the environment overlaps.).

30. As per claim 14, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 1, wherein said first client is connected to a terminal device for presenting content and said terminal device is not a member of said first hub network and is not a member of said second hub network (col. 2, lines 43-44. Media player connects to a television or monitor. First hub network considered as client and first server and second hub network considered as second server and first client.).

31. As per claim 17, Lipscomb teaches the network of claim 16, wherein said second server stores a third license and a third version of locked content data, said third version stores said second content, and said third license is bound to said second hub network (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 64-65. Media player is able to store media assets. col. 3, lines 44-48. Digital media may be protected, i.e. DRM, encryption.).

32. As per claim 19, Lipscomb teaches the hub network of claim 18, wherein said hub network defines a local environment including said server and said client (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The environment is limited to a network of permitted devices or within network range.).

33. As per claim 20, Lipscomb teaches the hub network of claim 19, wherein said local environment is a limited area defined relative to said server (col. 3, lines 5-9; col. 11, lines 15-18. Scope of license permits access on certain media players. col. 4, lines 9-10; col. 9, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensing permitting, any media player may access assets on any other media player. The environment is limited to a network of permitted devices or within network range.).

34. As per claim 21, Lipscomb teaches the invention of claim 18, wherein said first client is a compliant device (col. 3, lines 5-10; col. 11, lines 15-22. Licensed playback device. Permit access to multiple media players.), and a compliant device that is a member of a hub network will not present bound content that is not bound to said member hub network (col. 4, lines 9-10, col. 11, lines 15-22. License restricts a media player to move or copy asset media from another media player or the portal.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

35. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

36. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipscomb, in view of Rofheart et al. US Patent #7,058,414 (Rofheart hereinafter).

37. As per claim 12, Lipscomb does not specifically teach the network media environment of claim 9, wherein a local environment for a hub network is defined by travel time of packets within said member hub network.

38. Rofheart teaches of defining an environment by travel time of packets with a network (col. 4, lines 5-8, 22-26).

39. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings to define an environment by travel time of packets within a network. The motivation for the suggested combination is that Rofheart's teachings would provide an improvement to

Lipscomb's teachings by reducing communication from unintended wireless devices as suggested by Lipscomb.

Conclusion

40. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

41. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7 to 4.

42. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned 571-273-8300.

43. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair>-

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/J. J./

Examiner, Art Unit 2454

/Nathan J. Flynn/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2454